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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN

AND

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE

TOWN OF MONTAGUE.

1864-5.

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1864-65

GREENFIELD:
PRINTED BY S. S. EASTMAN & COMPANY.

1865.

TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

C. P. WRIGHT in cash account with the town of Montague,		Dr.
To cash on hand Feb. 24, 1864, .		\$28 49
Received for Lecture Room,		30 00
" From State School Fund,		82 34
" " " Reimbursement of State aid,		3700 00
" of R. Clapp, from Town School Fund,		170 00
" " town of Gill, for Falls Ferry,		20 75
" " " Deerfield, for Rice's Ferry,		8 16
" from Town Hall, above expenses,		7 00
" " State, for support of Nathan Hartson,		57 14
" of " the balance on State aid for 1863,		144 00
" " Alpheus Rugg, amount of tax bill,		8160 97
" " returned soldiers, poll tax,		14 00
" " State Corporation tax,		397 54
		<hr/> \$12820 39
		Cr.
By cash on hand,		\$3 40
" paying State tax,		1752 00
" " County tax,		686 85
" " Selectmen's orders,		10378 14
		<hr/> \$12820 39

C. P. WRIGHT, Treasurer.

SELECTMEN'S ACCOUNT.

Paid town expenses as follows :—

1st. Schooling,	1544 25
2d. Extra highway work,	240 43
3d. Services of town officers.	553 43
4th. Interest on town debts,	875 77
5th. Town debts,	4720 00
6th. Town farm,	1570 21
7th. Miscellaneous,	874 05
	\$10378 14

1st, Schooling :—

Center District,	296 44
South “	118 34
West “	116 34
City “	201 78
Falls “	45 14
Grout's “	187 54
Lafayette “	64 46
North West “	109 22
Miller's River District,	38 25
Federal Street “	233 75
Chestnut Hill “	73 62
Dry Hill “	59 37
	\$1544 25

2d. Extra Highway work :—

J. R. Waters, work in 1863,	7 86
E. P. Goodell, “ “	11 71

J. Saxton, work in 1863,	2 76
Zenas Clapp, " "	9 15
Peter Spaulding, " "	7 92
Martin Grout, " "	8 62
Scraper,	8 25
E. Marsh & Son,	75 40
J. W. Bissell,	1 00
A. L. Taft,	20 00
E. D. Ingraham,	1 72
A. H. Sawin,	21 58
Benjamin Fay,	16 47
S. W. Root,	15 00
H. B. Gunn,	10 00
James Learned,	3 79
S. Rockwell,	4 40
S. G. Pratt,	5 00
Zenas Clapp,	4 20
H. B. Gunn,	3 20
C. & H. C. Lawrence,	1 40
R. Clapp,	1 00
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	\$240 43

3d. Services of Town Officers:—

C. P. Wright, Treasurer,	25 00
" Town Clerk,	31 00
Richard Clapp, selectman and overseer of poor,	126 43
" Assessor,	60 00
William W. Thayer, selectman and overseer of poor,	45 00
" " " Assessor,	40 00
Seymour Rockwell, selectman and overseer of poor,	40 00
" Assessor,	40 00
Dr. E. A. Deane, Superintending School Committee,	20 00
R. N. Oakman, " "	20 00
S. Rockwell, " "	20 00
Alpheus Rugg, Collector and Constable,	86 00
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	\$553 43

4th. Interest on Town debts:—

E. L. Delano,	125 32
J. H. Root,	57 70
J. S. Ward,	110 00
Robert Brown,	78 00
Peter Spaulding,	24 00
Thaxter Shaw,	212 31

Elijah Bardwell,	72 00
R. Clapp, School Fund,	103 00
Seraphine Moore,	6 00
Melissa Waterman,	13 00
Sybil Clapp,	8 75
H. F. Root,	65 69
	<hr/>
	\$875 77

5th. Payment of town debts:—

E. L. Delano,	699 00
H. F. Root,	447 00
Melissa Waterman,	100 00
J. H. Root,	400 00.
H. F. Root,	574 00
Thaxter Shaw,	2150 00
Sybil Clapp,	250 00
Adeline Mathews,	100 00
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	\$4720 00

6th. Orders on Treasurer for town farm, \$1570 21

7th. Miscellaneous expenses:—

S. S. Eastman, printing,	27 50
Support of Rice's Ferry in 1863,	11 75
S. W. Bangs, abatement of tax in 1863,	4 00
License of liquor agency,	20 00
Sanford Goddard, Justice services,	7 50
Oliver Ellsworth, school books,	150 05
Geo. C. Davis, State Reform School,	8 71
J. W. Bissell, for turkeys,	3 50
For recruiting,	64 27
H. Taft, for tending ferry,	56 50
Osborn Munn, " "	16 32
J. C. Clary, repairs of Town House,	30 60
Geo. A. Clapp and others,	2 70
C. P. Wright, express, stationery, &c.,	25 00
J. C. Bangs & Co., stamps, paper, oil, &c., for offices,	4 03
Joseph Clapp, for driving hearse,	22 50
Abatement of taxes to Collector,	96 17
R. Clapp, bill of Hartson, received of State,	56 89
W. W. Thayer, recruiting expenses,	2 25
R. Clapp, money advanced on bill from State,	144 00

Temporary Interest,	11 81
W. W. Thayer, money advanced for State aid,	108 00

\$874 05

R. Clapp, in account with the Montague School Fund,	Dr.
To cash received on notes;	2572 24

Cr.

By cash paid as interest, and by cash for which the School Fund holds notes against the town,	2548 23
By cash on hand,	24 01

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE SCHOOL FUND.

Notes against the town,	1914 65
“ “ individuals,	923 96
Cash on hand,	24 01
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	\$2862 62

LIQUOR AGENCY.

Cash and liquors on hand Feb. 17, 1865,	347 68
“ “ “ “ “ “ 19, 1864,	108 77
Outstanding debts, Feb. 17, 1865,	201 61
	<hr/>
	\$310 38
Increase of funds in the agency,	37 30

E. W. HUNTER, *Agent*.

STATE AID ADVANCED TO FAMILIES OF VOLUNTEERS

FROM MARCH 1st, 1864, TO MARCH 1st, 1865.

Mrs. Patrick Britt,	144 00
“ John P. Mealey,	144 00
“ Otis E. Caswell,	144 00
“ Guy Bardwell,	144 00
“ Lewis A. Drury,	144 00
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Horton,	144 00
Mrs. Otis D. Munsell,	96 00
Mr. and Mrs. Waterman,	96 00
Mrs. Levi Brizzee,	96 00
“ Truman Newton,	96 00
“ Charles P. White,	96 00

Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Burnham,	79 75
Mrs. Liberty Wright,	48 00
Mr. Albert Newton,	48 00
Mrs. David Burnham,	48 00
“ Albert Smith,	48 00
“ James W. Potter,	48 00
“ John A. Bascom,	48 00
“ Jane Holden,	36 00
“ J. Barnes,	36 00
“ Alfred M. Pierce,	32 00
“ J. M. Mathews,	24 00
“ Susan A. Whitfield,	21 00
“ Max Feldman,	20 00
“ C. N. Lawson,	16 00
Mr. F. E. Dickinson,	12 00
Mrs. Jacob Muller,	8 00
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	\$1916 75

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE TOWN.

Thaxter Shaw, road debt,		300 00
“ “ town house debt,	1000 00	
J. S. Ward, “ “ “	925 00	
	<hr/>	\$1925 00
E. L. Delano, State aid,	1100 00	
J. S. Ward, “ “	300 00	
Peter Spaulding, “ “	500 00	
E. L. Delano, “ “	372 00	
Thaxter Shaw, “ “	250 00	
Seraphine Moore, State aid,	100 00	
Melissa Waterman, “ “	300 00	
School Fund, “ “	822 65	
J. W. Bissell, “ “	645 00	
	<hr/>	\$4389 65
J. H. Root, Bounty,	400 00	
J. S. Ward, “	400 00	
Thaxter Shaw, “	1800 00	
	<hr/>	\$2600 00
E. L. Delano, town farm debt,	1734 00	
Elijah Bardwell, “ “ “	1200 00	
School Fund, “ “ “	1092 00	
Thaxter Shaw, “ “ “	400 00	
	<hr/>	\$4426 00

Miller's River school district,	4 18
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	\$13644 83

RESOURCES.

Cash in Treasury,	3 40
Due from State, State aid for 1863,	127 00
“ “ “ to March 1st, 1865,	2313 75
“ “ “ Hartson bill,	93 00
“ “ “ Lafayette District,	9 75
“ “ “ town farm,	1570 21
“ “ “ interest of school fund for 1862,	51 18
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	\$4168 29

Whole indebtedness,	13644 83
Deduct resources,	4168 29
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	\$9476 54

Town Farm in account with the Selectmen,	Dr.
To cash paid for neat stock,	217 00
“ “	12 96
“ “ funeral expenses and medical services, old bill,	24 50
“ “ to R. L. & D. W. Goss, old bill,	38 54
“ “ Brattleboro, Mrs. Simons,	64 35
“ “ Mrs. Terry and others out of alms-house,	25 15
“ “ medical services “ “ “	28 80
“ “ phosphate, labor, and tools,	99 19
“ “	50 00
“ “ Locke Payne,	25 00
“ “ C. P. Wright, bedding and groceries,	272 00
“ “ rent of land,	36 00
“ “ labor,	367 70
“ “ groceries and provisions,	226 23
“ “ Geo. A. Clapp,	6 19
“ “ S. S. Holton, flour and meal,	17 12
“ “ medical services,	16 75
“ “ James Learned,	5 57
“ “ tax on farm and land of J. D. Green,	70 89
“ “ tobacco boxes,	31 50
“ “ S. Caswell, salary and cash,	435 11
“ “ interest on town farm debt,	300 00
“ “ from E. Thayer's estate,	20 00
“ “ to H. Sherman for March,	29 10
“ “ “ “ groceries,	3 06
“ “ of Amos Adams,	18 00
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	\$2440 71

Inventory of Feb. 20, 1864,	6092 10
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	\$8532 81
Town Farm in account with the Selectmen,	Cr.
By cash for neat stock,	342 20
“ “ paying note of H. Sherman,	106 00
“ “ R. L. & D. W. Goss, old bill,	38 54
“ “ two coffins, “ “	17 00
“ “ farm products sold,	222 23
	<hr/>
	\$725 97

INVENTORY

Of the Town Farm property Feb. 20, 1865.

Real estate,	4000 00
Live stock,	1067 00
Farming tools,	500 00
House furniture,	225 00
Produce and provisions,	941 00
6400 lbs. tobacco,	1440 00
Due for house rent of R. L. & D. W. Goss,	25 00
“ “ keeping stock,	15 00
	<hr/>
Total Cr.	\$8938 97
“ Dr.	8532 81
	<hr/>
Balance in favor of farm,	\$406 16

Montague, Feb. 27, 1865.

RICHARD CLAPP,	}	Selectmen and Overseers of Poor.
WILLIAM W. THAYER,		
SEYMOUR ROCKWELL		

SCHOOL REPORT.

VILLAGE SCHOOL.

FIRST DEPARTMENT—SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Helen Montague of Northfield. This was a school that a Committee likes to visit and report. They don't feel constrained to comply with Burns' advice to his young friend—

“But still keep something to yourself,
You'll scarcely tell to any.”

There are however, some things in every school, and some points about every teacher, that might be made more acute, and some that might be improved if blunted to some extent. If Miss Montague could correct something of her measured precision, and cultivate an easier and more off-hand manner, she undoubtedly would accomplish more work in a term of school, and perhaps do it just as well.

WINTER TERM.—Taught by R. G. McNiece. A teacher may be never so “apt to teach,” never so industrious, and yet not make a showy school. There was no lack of energy nor manifest interest in his work with Mr. McNiece, and besides he had more human nature and general information, and more experience, and all the advantages that a contact with the world gives, that most of our teachers are deficient in; yet, with all these in his favor, his examination was not a brilliant entertainment. There was a lack of *quality* in the material of the school. The private school, which is with many a questionable advantage to the school interests of the town, had taken from his school the first class, which had in previous terms given character to the school. Then there was a latent, inanimate laziness that infected a good deal of the school, that seemed beyond the power of human will to regenerate.

SECOND DEPARTMENT.—Taught by Miss Ann Maria Clapp. Energy, good health and a good education, and an indefinable, unstudied manner that makes children love a person, constitute about all the requisite qualifications in a teacher, and we think it is making use of no flattery in saying that Miss Clapp possesses such a combination, and has brought them to bear very forcibly upon her school.

SECOND DEPARTMENT—WINTER TERM.—Taught by Miss Maria Clapp. It is enough to say that Miss Clapp only gave another evidence of her eminent qualifications as a teacher, in the school which she has conducted so well for a number of terms.

FEDERAL STREET.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Eunice A. Merriam. This was a model school in respect of order and system. She *had* a good school out of which to *make* a good school. There is not a more intelligent and promising class of pupils to be found anywhere than in this school. They would astonish their own parents, who must be strangers to their precocity, except perhaps by reputation. Some of the district must vent their malicious croaking somewhere, and made this school their victim. But it was like crushing truth to earth, “’twill rise again.” The number of window panes that a rude set of boys happen to break in an unoccupied basement of a rickety school-house, is a meager evidence by which to judge of the success or failure of a school. The Fall term was taught by the same teacher, with good satisfaction to the Committee.

WINTER TERM.—Taught by M. G. Woolley and Charles Damon. In charge of Mr. Woolley, the school appeared more like a pandemonium than a convention of human beings. The pupils were like all children in a school-room when not under any restraint. The teacher seemed well disposed, and manifested an interest in his work, but was not qualified to perform it. The Committee, or that part of it which had charge of the school, plead guilty of tolerating such a school too long, and the same Committee wonders how any private person, patron of the school, could wish to seek revenge for some old district feud, at the expense of a public school, the best of which are not above what they should be.

Mr. Damon, who succeeded Mr. Woolley, had two eyes, and two ears, and decision and common sense, which made the school all that the most fastidious and exacting could ask.

DRY HILL SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Sarah Hurd of Vernon, Vt. This school appeared well at the outset, but on account of the failing health of the teacher, it closed prematurely.

WINTER TERM.—Taught by Miss Abbie Smith. At the commencement of this school it appeared very promising, but as somebody whose business it was neglected to give the Committee notice of the time of its close, the Committee can only say that they have never heard in the district any dissatisfaction expressed, and suppose it was a good school from this fact, and because Miss Smith is accustomed to keep a good school.

CITY DISTRICT.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Lizzie Rugg. Fall term taught by Miss Marion E. Taft. Winter term taught by Miss Annie E. Eaton. We have not, with some ten or twelve years' superintendence of this school, been accustomed to find it so well governed and orderly as we have wished, and we have believed the following were the two principal reasons: 1st, The school has almost invariably been comprised of quite young scholars. The classes of those who were old enough to begin fairly to appreciate the advantages of the school, have been few and small. We have seldom found a respectable class in grammar, or an advanced one in arithmetic. Just as we have got together a class that promised to become an ornament and a benefit to the whole school, the majority leave, and the class becomes broken and lost to the school. 2d, The ill construction of the interior of the house. The seats should be so arranged that the instructor in his usual seat can overlook the whole school, and survey the countenance of every scholar. This enables him to instruct and govern his whole school at the same time, and with comparative ease. But as this and some other of our houses are constructed, the teacher must of necessity be much in the center of the room, with his back turned alternately upon each side of the house. In this situation, pupils behind him often take advantage of his position, to indulge in a kind of temporary emancipation from school orders. Not unfrequently, smiles, grimaces, and "eyes that look to eyes again" in front of him, tell too well that words are not the only signs of ideas. The only remedy for this evil, is a change in the position of the seats, which shall turn the faces of all the pupils away from each other and toward the teacher. These two causes, in our judgment, have been and continue to be a sad hindrance to the progress of the city school.

Miss Eaton entered upon the duties of the Winter term with much zeal, and undertook to maintain strict discipline, but was not well sustained by many of the parents of the district. She was well qualified to teach the branches taught in our schools, was industrious and in earnest, and with the hearty co-operation of the parents, we could not discover why the school might not have been all that could have been desired. Those scholars who were regular in their attendance, passed an excellent examination, and we believe made more than the ordinary proficiency.

MILLER'S RIVER DISTRICT.

Taught by Miss ———— A short school, a small school, a poor house. A young but faithful teacher. Scholars with whom but little fault could be found, and a brief report.

NORTH WEST DISTRICT.

Teacher, Miss Mattie J. Bridges of Deerfield. Few schools in town have been so quietly and successfully governed and instructed as this. There is after all that may be said, a certain "aptness to teach," a peculiar and special qualification for the calling, that we invariably find with our most successful teachers. When once proved and found efficient, it is wise and desirable if possible to continue a teacher in the same school for successive terms.

GROUT'S CORNER DISTRICT.

Summer term, taught by Miss Mary E. Hilliard of Northfield. Winter term, taught by Miss Julia G. Rowe of Montague. The winter school has not yet closed, but when visited by the Committee, appeared well. The summer term was taught to the satisfaction of the Committee, and we presume, of the district. The average attendance has not generally been so good in this district as in some others. There was quite an improvement in this respect in the summer term. The examination was very well sustained, and we are happy to say was attended by *some* of the parents.

WEST DISTRICT.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Abbie Smith of Montague. Miss Smith devoted herself faithfully to her task, and her pupils co-operated with her to make the school profitable. She had good order, was thorough in her instructions, and her scholars made good proficiency in their studies. The closing examination was perfectly satisfactory.

WINTER TERM.—Taught by Miss Eunice A. Merriam of Northfield. Miss Merriam is eminently qualified for a teacher. Thorough in her instructions, a good disciplinarian, energetic, and ardently devoted to her work. The school has not yet closed, but we have been well pleased with its appearance when we have visited it. The recitations were conducted with admirable skill and method, and the scholars seem to be making rapid progress.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

SUMMER AND WINTER TERMS.—Taught by Miss Sarah Field of Leverett. Miss Field has proved herself, by her zeal and devotion

to her pupils, an able and successful teacher. The school has always appeared well. The examination at the close of the summer term was highly satisfactory. The winter school is not yet closed. But from the appearance of it when visited, the good order and thoroughness of instruction always observed, we think it is making good progress.

CHESTNUT HILL DISTRICT.

SUMMER TERM.—Taught by Miss Susan H. Gould of Dover, Vt. Miss Gould has much experience as a teacher, both in this State and Vermont. She fully sustains her former well earned reputation as a first class teacher. The school made good progress under her instruction.

WINTER TERM.—Miss Lizzie M. Rugg of Montague, teacher. Miss Rugg is an experienced and competent teacher. The school always appeared well under her care. The examination at the close passed off very creditably both to the teacher and pupils.

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT.

Taught by Leonora A. Hall of Dover, Vt. This school is quite small, and has but one term during the year. This was Miss Hall's first effort at teaching, yet she succeeded well. She labored faithfully for the benefit of the few under her charge, and the results were highly satisfactory.

GENERAL REMARKS.

It requires about three adjectives or three propositions to round a period handsomely, as length, breadth and thickness to make a perfect solid. So it requires three dimensions, or elements, or forces, to make a complete school—the executive, the legislative, the judicial powers, represented by the teacher, the scholars, the parents. For some strange, unaccountable reason, the whole responsibility is usually thrown upon the teacher. Now if one of those powers predominate over another, the school will be imperfect, while if they are well balanced and harmonious, the school will generally be a success. The whole responsibility thrown upon the teacher, when the legislative department is introducing bills deleterious to itself and detrimental to the other branches, and passing many bills over the head of the executive's vetoes, and the judicial branch considering itself only a sinecure, a kind of an honorary appendage to the school, before which only vexed questions are to be argued by the legislative branch, (the executive's counsel, plea or testimony being seldom called in to graduate their decisions which acquit or sentence the culprit, the

teacher,) makes an inharmonious and unjust government. If a teacher is true to his mission, (and most of them are, if wholesome support would prove them to be,) it is an unpardonable sin to withhold encouragement, to look with such passive indifference upon their work. If a teacher is imbecile and lazy, and allows disloyal boys to introduce treason, and disloyal girls to inculcate secession, he should not only be tried before a Committee as judge, but also by parents as a jury which has fully investigated the case.

The genius of many a young teacher has been nipped in the bud, or "blushed unseen," for want of sufficient wholesome encouragement; and many a dolt has been permitted to impose upon the cause of education, for want of the restraints of public interest. And a school district not unfrequently wakes up from its lethargy to find its Sumter fired upon and its flag surrendered under the administration of a puerile executive, and that while they slept traitors have been carrying away their spoils.

If public schools are what we pretend to think they are, they at least deserve our encouragement and our interest *manifested* in some definite shape. At least the parents should watch the school with their own eyes as well as the eyes of a Committee and the capricious eyes of the scholars. They should guard the school interests with their own tongues, instead of the garrulous tongue of Madam Rumor or the babbling of Mother Gossip. If the public felt a like interest in schools that they have in their business, no man or woman would stoop to gratify a personal will or revenge at the expense of a school, nor wish a useless school to continue, nor a good school to be discontinued. A consistent and reasonable man or woman would never interfere with the decisions of a Committee which knows from observation and repeated visits, more of the condition of the school than he or she can know who never visits his own school nor any other.

In conclusion, we can say with much pleasure, that there has seldom been a more propitious year to our schools than the one that has already closed.

E. A. DEANE,	} Superintending
R. N. OAKMAN,	
SEYMOUR ROCKWELL	
	} School
	} Committee.



